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DE RUEHMR #0287 1411515
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O R 211515Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2966
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0023
RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 3331

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 000287

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FOR AF/S; ADDIS FOR USAU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/21/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#) [LT](#)

SUBJECT: LESOTHO: AMBASSADOR RAISES ZIMBABWE DURING FAREWELL CALLS

REF: (A) MASERU 215 (B) MASERU 185 AND PREVIOUS (C) HILL/PERRY E-MAIL DTD 05/05/07

CLASSIFIED BY: JUNE CARTER PERRY, AMBASSADOR, EXEC, STATE.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

[11](#). (SBU) In support of ref C strategy, Ambassador raised Zimbabwe issue with Prime Minister and Acting Foreign Minister on May 11. She reviewed key points also with King Letsie III on May 16.

[12](#). (C) The Government of Lesotho's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) had decided to select President Mbeki to speak on behalf of the region as envoys from individual countries (including SADC Chair, Lesotho) had been rebuffed.

[13](#). (C) The King talked about the economic difficulties Zimbabwe was facing under the current regime. He said there could be no electoral freedom at this rate; he thought the situation was shameful for the continent as a whole. He put forth the view that only Mbeki, with continued pressure also from the international community and non-governmental organizations, would be effective.

[14](#). (C) Comment: Post has raised the major points at the highest levels, as well as with the appropriate MFA office. It appears that the SADC Chair feels strongly that Zimbabwe's leader will now only speak with the South African leader. End Comment.

MURPHY